

HOUSE BILL 24

Unofficial Copy  
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HB 624/03 - JUD

2004 Regular Session  
4r0358  
CF 4r1721

(PRE-FILED)

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By: **Delegate Boutin**  
Requested: July 28, 2003  
Introduced and read first time: January 14, 2004  
Assigned to: Judiciary

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Committee Report: Favorable  
House action: Adopted  
Read second time: March 9, 2004

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CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Criminal Law - Animal Cruelty - Dogfighting and Cockfighting**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting a person from knowingly attending as a spectator a  
4 deliberately conducted event that uses a fowl, cock, or other bird to fight with  
5 another fowl, cock, or other bird; prohibiting a person from possessing, owning,  
6 selling, transporting, or training a dog or a fowl, cock, or other bird for certain  
7 purposes; prohibiting a person from possessing certain implements or devices  
8 relating to a fowl, cock, or other bird fighting with another fowl, cock, or other  
9 bird; prohibiting a person from knowingly allowing certain premises to be used  
10 to conduct dogfights or fights between fowl, cocks, or other birds; prohibiting a  
11 person from arranging or conducting a dogfight or a fight in which a fowl, cock,  
12 or other bird fights another fowl, cock, or other bird; defining certain terms;  
13 authorizing a court to order psychological counseling under certain  
14 circumstances; establishing certain penalties; and generally relating to animal  
15 cruelty, dogfighting, and cockfighting.

16 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
17 Article - Criminal Law  
18 Section 10-605, 10-607, and 10-608  
19 Annotated Code of Maryland  
20 (2002 Volume and 2003 Supplement)

21 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
22 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

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**Article - Criminal Law**

2 10-605.

3 (a) A person may not knowingly attend a deliberately conducted dogfight as a  
4 spectator.

5 (B) A PERSON MAY NOT KNOWINGLY ATTEND AS A SPECTATOR A  
6 DELIBERATELY CONDUCTED EVENT THAT USES A FOWL, COCK, OR OTHER BIRD TO  
7 FIGHT WITH ANOTHER FOWL, COCK, OR OTHER BIRD.

8 [(b)] (C) (1) A person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor  
9 and on conviction is subject to imprisonment not exceeding 90 days or a fine not  
10 exceeding \$1,000 or both.

11 (2) As a condition of sentencing, the court may order a defendant  
12 convicted of violating this section to participate in and pay for psychological  
13 counseling.

14 10-607.

15 (a) A person may not:

16 (1) use or allow a dog to be used in a dogfight; [or]

17 (2) arrange or conduct a dogfight;

18 (3) POSSESS, OWN, SELL, TRANSPORT, OR TRAIN A DOG FOR THE  
19 PURPOSE OF BEING USED IN A DOGFIGHT; OR

20 (4) KNOWINGLY ALLOW PREMISES UNDER THE PERSON'S OWNERSHIP,  
21 CHARGE, OR CONTROL TO BE USED TO CONDUCT A DOGFIGHT.

22 (b) (1) A person who violates this section is guilty of the felony of aggravated  
23 cruelty to animals and on conviction is subject to imprisonment not exceeding 3 years  
24 or a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or both.

25 (2) As a condition of sentencing, the court may order a defendant  
26 convicted of violating this section to participate in and pay for psychological  
27 counseling.

28 10-608.

29 (a) (1) IN THIS SECTION, "IMPLEMENT OF COCKFIGHTING" MEANS ANY  
30 IMPLEMENT OR DEVICE INTENDED OR DESIGNED:

31 (I) TO ENHANCE THE FIGHTING ABILITY OF A FOWL, COCK, OR  
32 OTHER BIRD; OR

1 (II) FOR USE IN A DELIBERATELY CONDUCTED EVENT THAT USES A  
2 FOWL, COCK, OR OTHER BIRD TO FIGHT WITH ANOTHER FOWL, COCK, OR OTHER  
3 BIRD.

4 (2) "IMPLEMENT OF COCKFIGHTING" INCLUDES:

5 (I) A GAFF;

6 (II) A SLASHER;

7 (III) A POSTIZA;

8 (IV) A SPARRING MUFF; AND

9 (V) ANY OTHER SHARP IMPLEMENT DESIGNED TO BE ATTACHED IN  
10 PLACE OF THE NATURAL SPUR OF A GAMECOCK OR OTHER FIGHTING BIRD.

11 (B) A person may not:

12 (1) use or allow the use of a fowl, cock, or other bird to fight with another  
13 animal;

14 (2) POSSESS AN IMPLEMENT OF COCKFIGHTING;

15 (3) ARRANGE OR CONDUCT A FIGHT IN WHICH A FOWL, COCK, OR OTHER  
16 BIRD FIGHTS WITH ANOTHER FOWL, COCK, OR OTHER BIRD;

17 (4) POSSESS, OWN, SELL, TRANSPORT, OR TRAIN A FOWL, COCK, OR  
18 OTHER BIRD FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENGAGING IN FIGHTING; OR

19 (5) KNOWINGLY ALLOW PREMISES UNDER THE PERSON'S OWNERSHIP,  
20 CHARGE, OR CONTROL TO BE USED TO CONDUCT A FIGHT IN WHICH A FOWL, COCK,  
21 OR OTHER BIRD FIGHTS WITH ANOTHER FOWL, COCK, OR OTHER BIRD.

22 [(b)] (C) (1) A person who violates this section is guilty of the felony of  
23 aggravated cruelty to animals and on conviction is subject to imprisonment not  
24 exceeding 3 years or a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or both.

25 (2) As a condition of sentencing, the court may order a defendant  
26 convicted of violating this section to participate in and pay for psychological  
27 counseling.

28 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take  
29 effect October 1, 2004.

